

ENCLOSURE 2

**Note, dated 25th September, 1950, by Professor J. Berlioz
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As concerning *Coracia*, the question seems to me much more difficult [than the questions relating to the trivial name of the Song Thrush and the proposed emendation of certain other trivial names dealt with respectively in Applications Z.N.(S.)493 and Z.N.(S.)491, submitted by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature]. Of course, I myself hate the unnecessary changes in nomenclature. But I believe that the use of the name *Coracias* for the Rollers was adopted at the time when *all* Brisson's names were rejected. Since the generic names given by Brisson were considered as valid by a Zoological Congress, it seems that they must antedate Linné's names given in 1766. So (*most unfortunately, I agree*) *Coracia* would have priority for the Choughs and *Galgulus* for the Rollers. Even *Coracias* cannot be accepted for the latter, as it is clearly stated by Brisson that the Latin *Coracia* is the same as the French "*Coracias*," and *Galgulus* is perfectly valid for the Rollers.

**ON THE APPLICATION RELATING TO THE GENERIC
NAMES "PYRRHOCORAX" TUNSTALL, 1771, AND
"CORACIA" BRISSON, 1760 (CLASS AVES), SUBMITTED
BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ORNITHOLOGICAL
NOMENCLATURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORNITHO-
LOGICAL NOMENCLATURE ? (Corymb.)**

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(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)492)

1. The purpose of the present note is twofold: (1) to clear away certain misapprehensions which it appears from the second of the two enclosures submitted by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature appear to exist regarding the action taken by the International Congress of Zoology and by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in regard to the status of generic names published in Brisson (M.J.), 1760, *Ornithologie*; (2) to indicate the action which under the established procedure would be necessary in the event of the approval by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of the recommendations in regard to the generic names *Pyrrhocorax* Tunstall, 1771, and *Coracia* Brisson, 1760, submitted to it by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature.

(a) Action taken by the International Congress of Zoology and
by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature
in regard to the status of generic names in Brisson, 1760,
"Ornithologie"

2. The question of the availability of the generic names published in 1760 in Brisson's *Ornithologie* was first brought before the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature by the late Dr. Ernst Hartert. The exact date of this application is not known but it was presumably a year or more prior to 1911, the year in which the decision of the International Commission on this subject was published in *Opinion* 37. At that time the International Commission (in common with all other zoologists) was much preoccupied with the problem whether under the *Règles* any status attached to generic names published by authors who applied a so-called "binary" system of nomenclature but who did not apply a binominal system of nomenclature. Shortly before the publication of *Opinion* 37 (in regard to Brisson's names), the International Commission adopted an *Opinion*—*Opinion* 20, published in July 1910 (*Smithson. Publ.* 1938 : 48-51)—in regard to the status of generic names published in 1763, by the "binary" but not binominal author Gronovius in his work entitled the *Zoophylacium Gronovianum*. In this *Opinion* the International Commission ruled in favour of the availability under the *Règles* of generic names published by "binary" but not binominal authors. Accordingly, when shortly afterwards, the International Commission came to consider Dr. Hartert's application relating to the status of generic names published in 1760 by the "binary" but admittedly not binominal author M. J. Brisson, it ruled that those names were available under the *Règles*. This ruling, embodied (as already noted) in *Opinion* 37 (1911, *Smithson. Publ.* 2013 : 87-88), was published exactly one year after *Opinion* 20, the *Opinion* on which, as the *Opinion* dealing with the question of principle involved, the validity of the ruling in *Opinion* 37 depended.

3. It is not necessary here to recapitulate in detail the long drawn-out controversy which followed the ruling (given in *Opinion* 20) in favour of the availability of generic names published after 1757 by authors who applied a so-called "binary" but not binominal system of nomenclature. It is sufficient to recall that, in the light of the proceedings at the Eleventh International Congress of Zoology at Padua in 1930, the Twelfth Congress at Lisbon in 1935 invited the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to prepare a comprehensive Report on the issues involved for consideration by the Thirteenth Congress and that the Report, so prepared by the International Commission, secured unanimous approval when it was submitted to the Thirteenth Congress at its meeting in Paris in July, 1948. It is in the light of that Report (for the text of which see, 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 152-167) and of the decisions thereon taken by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature and by the International Congress of Zoology that the present status of Brisson's generic names must be judged.

4. As will be seen from the Report referred to above, the International Commission (1) reported that the apparently ambiguous phrase "nomenclature binaire" as used in the substantive French text of the *Règles* was (for the reasons there explained) identical in meaning with the expression "nomen-

clature binominale" and recommended that the latter expression, being absolutely clear in meaning, should be substituted for the expression "nomenclature binaire," (2) cancelled those of its earlier *Opinions* (including *Opinion* 37, relating to the status of the generic names published by Brisson in 1760 in *Ornithologia*), which were dependent upon *Opinion* 20 and were therefore now seen to be incorrect, but (3) recognising that many of Brisson's generic names were in general use by ornithologists and being anxious to avoid any action which would lead to unnecessary name-changing, recommended the Congress to make an exception in favour of Brisson's generic names and to accord to them availability under the *Règles*, notwithstanding the fact that Brisson had not (as required by the amended text of Proviso (a) to Article 25) in the *Ornithologia* applied the principles of binominal nomenclature. Readers who are interested in the detailed terms of the decision taken by the International Commission in this matter are referred to the *Official Record of Proceedings* of the International Commission at the Fourth of its Meetings held during its Paris Session (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 63-66).

5. We see therefore that it was solely for the purpose of promoting stability in ornithological nomenclature and of avoiding unnecessary name-changing that in 1948 the International Commission took the special action described above to provide a legal basis of availability for the generic names published in Brisson's *Ornithologie* of 1760. Neither in this, nor in any other, case, where the International Commission gives a general ruling on the availability of a given book for the purposes of the *Règles*, does the Commission thereby commit itself on the question whether each and every name published in it is free from all objection from the standpoint of stability in zoological nomenclature. For clearly decisions on such questions can only be taken on the basis of detailed information submitted in each individual case concerned. Thus, a decision by the International Commission on the general status of a given book for nomenclatorial purposes in no way fetters the liberty of action of the International Commission in dealing with applications for the use of the plenary powers in relation to individual names first published in the book in question or prejudices the action which at a later date the Commission, on being presented with a statement of the facts, may think it desirable to take for the purpose of furthering stability in nomenclature and preventing confusion.

6. It will be seen therefore that the International Commission is perfectly free to take a decision such as that asked for by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature in relation to the name *Coracia* Brisson, 1760, if it considers such action desirable. It may be added indeed that, at the time when the Commission recommended the Congress to enter Brisson's *Ornithologia* in the Schedule of available zoological works then agreed to be added to the *Règles*, it was aware that applications for the suppression of certain of the generic names published in the *Ornithologie* might later be received, for already the late Dr. James L. Peters (then Vice-President, later President, of the International Commission) had notified the Secretary that it might be necessary for the Commission to consider such action in individual cases.

(b) Need for the decision on the application received from the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature in regard to the names "Pyrrhonorax" Tunstall, 1771, and "Coracia" Brisson, 1760, to cover all aspects of the problem involved

7. Two decisions taken in Paris in 1948 on questions of procedure affect the form and scope of the decision to be taken by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature on the application received from the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature in regard to the names *Pyrrhonorax* Tunstall, 1771, and *Coracia* Brisson, 1760. The first of these decisions, a decision taken by the International Commission itself, is that, contrary to the practice adopted in the case of certain of its earlier *Opinions*, the decision to be taken in any given case is in future to cover all the points involved in the problem in question and not be confined to certain aspects of that problem of special interest to the applicant from whom the case had been received (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 355). The second of the decisions referred to above was that by which the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology laid upon the International Commission the duty of placing upon the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* (or, as the case may be, the corresponding *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names*) the name of any genus, on which a ruling is given by the Commission, and upon the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* (or, as the case may be, the corresponding *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names*) any trivial name in respect of which a decision may be given by the Commission (including the trivial names of the type species of genera, the names of which are placed on the *Official List of Generic Names*, except where any such trivial name is not the oldest available such name for the species in question) (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 267-271, 334).

8. Under the decisions referred to above, the decision to be taken on the present application will need to deal with the following matters:—

- (1) Since the application involves the question of the status of the name *Coracias* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 107) as the generic name for the Rollers in relation to the name of the objectively identical nominal genus *Galgulus* Brisson, 1760 (*Ornithologie* : **1** : 30 ; **2** : 64) (see Enclosure 2 to application submitted), it will be necessary for this subject to be dealt with in the *Opinion* rendered on this application. Since *Galgulus* Brisson, 1760, is an objective junior synonym of *Coracias* Linnaeus, 1758 (type species, by subsequent selection by Sélby, [1825], *Ill. brit. Orn.* **1** (Landbirds) : xxvii) : *Coracias garrulus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 107), no difficulty of any kind arises, all that is necessary being (a) that the generic name *Coracias* Linnaeus, 1758 (type species as above) should be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, (b) that the name *Galgulus* Brisson, 1760, should be placed on the corresponding *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names*, and (c) that the trivial name *garrulus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Coracias garrulus*) should be placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names*.

- (2) If the International Commission decides to grant the principal part of the request addressed to it and therefore to suppress the name *Coracia* Brisson, 1760 (*Ornithologie* 1: 30; 2: 3) under its plenary powers, thereby validating the name *Pyrrhocorax* Tunstall, 1771 (*Orn. Brit.* : 2) (type species, by monotypy: *Upupa pyrrhocorax* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1: 118), the first of these names will need to be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names*, the second, on the *Official List of Generic Names*. If, however, the Commission were to reject the present application, the name *Pyrrhocorax* Tunstall, 1771, would need to be placed on the *Official Index* and *Coracia* Brisson, 1760, on the *Official List*. In either case, the trivial name *pyrrhocorax* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Upupa pyrrhocorax*) will need to be placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.
- (3) Next, it must be noted that in (for example) Neave's *Nomenclator zoologicus* there is noted a generic name *Pyrrhocorax* Moehring, 1758 (*Geslach. Vogel.* (Nozem. & Vosm. ed.) : 1, 15), which, if an available name, would invalidate the name *Pyrrhocorax* Tunstall, 1771, which would then become a junior homonym. Fortunately, however, in this case also, no difficulty arises, since at its Session held in Paris in 1948 the Commission gave a ruling (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4: 566-568) that the *Geslachten der Vogelen* (the translation into Dutch of the pre-1758 work published by Moehring in 1752 under the title *Avium Genera*) is not available under the *Règles*, Nozeman and Vosmaer not having (as required by *Opinion* 5) reinforced the names in this book by adoption or acceptance. Accordingly, all that will be necessary in this connection will be that the invalid name *Pyrrhocorax* Moehring, 1758, should be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names*.
- (4) It must be noted also that, in addition to the name *Pyrrhocorax* Nozeman & Vosmaer, 1758, discussed above, there is also a name *Pyrrhocorax* Brisson, 1760 (*Ornithologie* 2: 30-31), of which due account must be taken. In considering this name two points must be noted: (a) that within any given assemblage of species treated by him as constituting a "genus," Brisson did not regard himself as in any way bound to cite all the included species under the name of the genus so accepted and indeed very frequently cited the included species under two or more generic (or subgeneric) names, (b) where a species had by previous (pre-1758) authors been known by a univocal specific name and where Brisson adopted for the genus (or the subgenus) concerned the same word as that by which the species in question had previously been known, Brisson, though a "binary" (but not binominal) author, himself cited the species under a scientific name consisting of the single word which thus denoted both the group (? subgenus) to which Brisson considered the species to belong and also the species itself. In the case with which we are here concerned, namely Brisson's "Genus XIV," the genus *Corvus*, Brisson included ten species but of these he cited only one under the

name "Corvus" (here used to denote tautonymy in the manner explained above), the other nine species being cited under the names *Cornix* (4 species), *Pyrrhocorax* (1 species), *Monedula* (4 species). The species to which Brisson applied the generic (or subgeneric) name *Pyrrhocorax* is, according to the synonymy given by Brisson, the "*Pyrrhocorax*" of Gesner and of Aldrovandus. This species, called by Brisson in French "*Le Choucas des Alpes*," was stated by him to be somewhat larger than the "*Choucas ordinaire*" (the jackdaw) and was figured by him as fig. 2 on plate 1 of volume 2 of the *Ornithologie*. Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen, who, at my request, has kindly examined Brisson's description and figure, has informed me (in litt., 13th September 1952) that this bird of Brisson's is the Alpine Chough. If no action were now taken in connection with the name *Pyrrhocorax* Brisson, the suppression (as proposed by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature) of the name *Coracia* Brisson, 1760, would not (as is the purpose of the proposed suppression of this name) validate *Pyrrhocorax* Tunstall, 1771, for the Chough, for that name, though no longer a junior objective synonym of *Coracia* Brisson, would still be an invalid name, as it would remain a junior homonym of *Pyrrhocorax* Brisson, 1760. Accordingly, in order to secure the object sought by the Standing Committee, it would be necessary for the Commission to use its plenary powers not only to suppress *Coracia* Brisson, 1760, but also to suppress the name *Pyrrhocorax* Brisson.

- (5) The rule that junior homonyms or junior objective synonyms, when encountered, should be placed on the appropriate *Official Index* will mean that the following names should now be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names*: (1) *Coracias* Hermannsen, 1847, *Ind. Gen. Malac.* 1: 303; (2) *Galgulus* Latreille, [1802-1803], (in Sonnini's Buffon), *Hist. nat. gén. partic. Crust. Ins.* 3: 252; (3) *Galgulus* Wagler, 1827, *Syst. Avium* 1: sign. 21 (15); (4) *Galgulus* Kittlitz, 1832, *Kupfertaf. Nat. Vogel* (1): 7; (5) *Pyrrhocorax* Vieillot, 1816, *Analyse*: 36.
- (6) Finally, it must be recalled that the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology inserted in the provisions relating to the use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of the plenary powers conferred upon it (now to be incorporated into the *Règles*) an instruction that, where those powers were used to suppress a name for the purpose of validating a name of later date, the suppression so made should be limited to the status of the name in question in relation to the Law of Priority and should not affect its status in relation to the Law of Homonymy (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4: 339). Under this decision (the purpose of which was to prevent the suppression of a name for the foregoing limited purpose from having the unintended effect of validating some homonym of later date that had previously been rejected or of making it possible to publish for some other taxonomic unit, as a valid name, a name consisting of the same word as that of the name suppressed), the

suppression of the name *Coracia* Brisson, 1760, if decided upon by the International Commission, will necessarily be confined to its status in relation to the Law of Priority, its position in relation to the Law of Homonymy remaining unaffected. Thus, the name *Coracia* Hübner, [1819] (*Verz. bekannt. Schmett.* (11) : 168) will remain an invalid junior homonym of *Coracia* Brisson, 1760, and should accordingly be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names*, together with the later (inadvertently published) name *Coracia* Moersch, 1865 (*J. Conchylol.* 13 : 385).

8. Having now examined the various subsidiary matters on which action will, under the rules of procedure, be required as part of the decision to be taken on the application regarding the names *Pyrhcorax* and *Coracia* submitted by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the International Ornithological Congress, I summarise as follows, in agreement with Colonel Meinertzhagen, the form and scope of the decision required in the event of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature deciding to approve the application so submitted. In that event, it would be necessary for the International Commission :—

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress :—

- (a) the name *Coracia* Brisson, 1760, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;
- (b) the name *Pyrhcorax* Brisson, 1760, for the purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy ;

(2) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *Coracias* Linnaeus, 1758 (type species, by selection by Sélby, [1825] : *Coracias garrulus* Linnaeus, 1758) ;
- (b) *Pyrhcorax* Tunstall, 1771 (type species, by monotypy : *Upupa pyrhcorax* Linnaeus, 1758) ;

(3) to place the under-mentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *garrulus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Coracias garrulus*) (trivial name of type species of *Coracias* Linnaeus, 1758)
- (b) *pyrhcorax* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Upupa pyrhcorax*) (trivial name of type species of *Pyrhcorax* Tunstall, 1771) ;

(4) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *Coracia* Brisson, 1760 (as proposed, under (1) (a) above, to be suppressed under the plenary powers for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy)

- (b) *Coracia* Hübner, [1819] (a junior homonym of *Coracia* Brisson, 1760)
- (c) *Coracia* Moersch, 1865 (a junior homonym of *Coracia* Brisson, 1760)
- (d) *Coracias* Herrmannsen, 1847 (a junior homonym of *Coracias* Linnaeus 1758)
- (e) *Galgulus* Brisson, 1760 (a junior objective synonym of *Coracias* Linnaeus, 1758)
- (f) *Galgulus* Latreille, [1802-1803] (a junior homonym of *Galgulus* Brisson, 1760)
- (g) *Galgulus* Wagler, 1827 (a junior homonym of *Galgulus* Brisson, 1760)
- (h) *Galgulus* Kittlitz, 1832 (a junior homonym of *Galgulus* Brisson, 1760)
- (i) *Pyrrhacorax* Nozeman & Vosmaer, (*in* Moehring), 1758 (a name published in a book declared by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to possess no status in zoological nomenclature)
- (j) *Pyrrhacorax* Brisson, 1760 (as proposed, under (1) (b) above, to be suppressed under the plenary powers ;
- (k) *Pyrrhacorax* Vieillot, 1816 (a junior homonym of *Pyrrhacorax* Tunstall, 1771).

9. Having thus summarised the action required in the event of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature deciding to grant the application submitted by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature, it is necessary to consider also the action which would be required if the Commission were to take a decision in the opposite sense. This may be summarised as follows by reference to the four main Points enumerated in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

- (i) Point (1) in paragraph 8 would need to be replaced by a new sentence placing on record the refusal of the International Commission to 1760. use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Coracia* Brisson,
- (ii) Under Point (2) the name *Coracia* Brisson, 1760, would be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in place of *Pyrrhacorax* Tunstall, 1771. The name *Coracias* Linnaeus, 1758, would still need to be placed on the *Official List*, for it is not a homonym of *Coracia* Brisson, 1760 (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 161-162, where are set out the criteria adopted by the International Congress of Zoology for determining whether any given pair of generic names are homonyms of one another).
- (iii) No change would need to be made in Point (3), except that it would be necessary to amend the note to the entry relating to the trivial name *pyrrhacorax* Linnaeus, 1758, by substituting therein the name *Coracia* Brisson, 1760, for the name *Pyrrhacorax* Tunstall, 1771.
- (iv) In Point (4) the only changes needed would be the deletion of the name *Coracia* Brisson, 1760 (sub-point (a)) and the insertion between the existing subpoints (h) and (i) of a new point reading : “ *Pyrrhacorax* Tunstall, 1771 (a junior objective synonym of *Coracia* Brisson, 1760).”